

REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests further examination and consideration in view of the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-5, 7 and 9-27 were previously pending in this application. Within the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 7, 17-20, 22, 23 and 25 have been rejected, Claims 11-16 have been allowed and Claims 3-5, 9, 10, 21, 24, 26 and 27 have been objected to. By the above amendment, Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 19, 24, 25 and 27 have been amended and Claims 3, 10, 17, 18, 21 and 26 have been canceled. Accordingly, Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11-16, 19, 20, 22-25 and 27 are currently pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C § 103

Within the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 7, 17-20, 22, 23 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,088,364 to Tokuhiko ("hereinafter Tokuhiko") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,237,049 to Ludtke ("hereinafter Ludtke").

Within the Office Action, it is indicated that Claims 3-5, 9, 10, 21, 24 and 26-27 are objected to and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the above amendments, Claim 3 has been incorporated into Claim 1, thus the independent Claim 1 is now allowable. Claim 3 has been canceled.

Claims 2 and 5 are dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable. Accordingly, Claims 2 and 5 are also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

By the above amendments, Claim 4 has been rewritten to incorporate the independent Claim 1, thus the independent Claim 4 is now allowable.

By the above amendments, Claim 10 has been incorporated into Claim 7, thus the independent Claim 7 is now allowable. Claim 10 has been canceled.

By the above amendments, Claim 9 has been rewritten to incorporate the independent Claim 7, thus the independent Claim 9 is now allowable.

Within the Office Action, it is indicated that Claims 11-16 are allowed.

Claims 17 and 18 have been canceled.

By the above amendments, Claim 21 has been incorporated into Claim 19, thus the independent Claim 19 is now allowable. Claim 21 has been canceled.

Claims 20 and 22-23 are all dependent upon the independent Claim 19. As discussed above, the independent Claim 19 is allowable. Accordingly, Claims 20 and 22-23 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

By the above amendments, Claim 24 has been rewritten to incorporate the independent Claim 19, thus the independent Claim 24 is now allowable.

By the above amendments, Claim 26 has been incorporated into Claim 25, thus the independent Claim 25 is now allowable. Claim 26 has been canceled.

By the above amendments, Claim 27 has been rewritten to incorporate the independent Claim 25, thus the independent Claim 27 is now allowable.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: October 27, 2005

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP.

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